

BULLETIN OF THE **POLONUS** PHILATELIC SOCIETY



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SPEECH GIVEN BY MAZEWSKI AT POLPEX 76

It is, indeed, an honor and a privilege to address the distinguished gathering of the members of the Polonus Philatelic Society and their friends.

In my previous appearances before this society, I had stressed the importance of stamp collecting and preservation as one of the very important and highly relevant facets of keeping history — past and present — alive in our hearts.

Today, I wish to add to these observations one additional and important thought, — that the Polonus Philatelic Society is a special, selective and highly regarded unit of our Polonia.

You are special, or rather, specialist in one particular stream of our millennial heritage evidenced in postal commemorative stamps; and you are special for this reason, that not too many individuals in our society are willing or able to commit themselves to the pursuance of the exacting ideal embodied in philately.

As a concomitant of your dedication, you are a selective group in our Polonia.

And for your splendid and memorable attainments in past and



ALOYSIUS A. MAZEWSKI, President
Polish National Alliance and
Polish American Congress

present exhibitions, you earned the acknowledgement, respect and gratitude of our Polonia.

Although organized in 1939, as a local unit, the Polonus Philatelic Society soon gained recognition in our land and today proudly stands as the oldest society in the free world, dedicated to the promotion and study of Polish philately.

And here we come to the crux of your important mission.

For, through your exhibits always arranged with the feeling for history and the sense of im-

portance, it has been giving us a visual panorama of the greatness, valor and uniqueness of our Polish and American heritage.

And through this you revitalize our thinking and give proper directions to our ethnic awareness.

This is, indeed, a very important task that you are performing for Polonia.

For reasons of our unhappy history during the partition of Poland, the Poles in homeland and their descendants abroad feel a deep sense of the value of suffering. Our literature and fine arts dwell on this subject almost exclusively.

In a lighter sense it could be said that we are not socially aware of ourselves unless somebody starts kicking us around.

While this attitude has deep roots in the tragedy of the partitioned Poland and in the similar tragedy stemming from the Yalta agreements, it is not proper and justifiable in the context of our current realities.

True, we should and must remember the injustices meted out to our land of ancestry, and we should and must demand justice for Poland, as the keystone of European stability, and consequently, of American security.

But in discharging this obligation, we can be more persuasive and effective by accentuating the positive aspects of our historical past.

By honoring Mikołaj Kopernik in one of your exhibits, you have demonstrated a positive action.

For we should stress and remind humanity, that it was a Pole, Mikołaj Kopernik, who unlocked the secrets of universe for mankind.

And it was another Pole, near-

ly four hundred years later, Maria Skłodowska Curie, who gave mankind the key to the atom.

Thus our contribution to the font of man's knowledge, science and progress spans the most important and crucial era in man's quest for truth, — from the macrocosm of Kopernik to the macrocosm of Skłodowska.

It was Paweł Włodkowic at the Council of Constance in 1415 who first promulgated the basics of International Law, and whose thesis delivered five hundred years ago, reads like a modern Declaration of the Rights of Man adopted by the United Nations.

And it was Wawrzyniec Grzymała Goślicki whose treatise on latin, "De Optimo Senatore," provided an intellectual seed for liberal thinking in England and, consequently exerted some indirect influence on the thinking of the founding fathers of the American Republic.

And it was Goślicki's contemporary in the 15th century, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski who wrote the first European classic in politics — "O Naprawie Rzeczypospolitej," or, On the Renovation of the Republic.

Every school child in America knows about the Magna Charta. But how many know that almost concurrent was the same principle embodied in Poland's charter of "Neminem Captivabimus."

And how many American scholars and historians know that the Polish charter had been codified one century of Magna Charta?

I can go on and on in speaking about Poland's contribution to the development of Western civilization and culture.

I think, however, that I have made my point by just mention-

ing Kopernik, Skłodowska, Włodkowic, Goślicki and Modrzewski.

That the world at large is not aware of Polonia's contributions to science, political science and the arts, is partly our own fault.

Not only are we in the habit of dwelling on our past national tragedies and shortcomings, but we show time and again that the Polish truism is steadily influencing our thinking. That truism is a noble one and undoubtedly had high valor and validity in the past, but seems to be out of context in our modern life style so much influenced by advertising.

That truism proclaimed that "co dobre, to się samo chwali"—what is good is self laudatory.

We seem to think, that what was good and great in our ancestral home, is known and appreciated in today's world. And we tend to turn to the old habit of accentuating that which hurts us and which speaks of tragedies and afflicted our ancestral home.

There is, of course, such precept as a justified pride.

And we have many reasons to be proud of our heritage.

But, in the wild conglomeration of events and confusing sociocultural values, we must tell loud and clear to our compatriots and the world the reasons for our pride.

When a craven idiot trying to be funny, is insulting Americans of Polish origin, Poland and the Poles in general — perhaps he is not aware that he is insulting a great nation.

When our protests against the savage and mindless Polish jokes meet with indifference in the media and in the intellectual circles of the United States, perhaps that indifference is rooted

in almost total ignorance of Poland's past and of the contributions Poles made to the development of our modern world?

Let us change the old Polish truism from — "co dobre to się samo chwali", to "co dobre to należy chwalić", what is good should be acclaimed.

In this change over, the Polonus Philatelic Society is playing a very important part.

For by philatelic exhibits, such as the one honoring Kopernik and the current one commemorating the participation of Poles in the founding, defense and development of our Republic, you are engaged in a very important action to Polonia, — the action of accentuating the positive.

For this I salute you.

POLISH P.O.W. STUDY GROUP WILL MEET AT INTERPHIL '76

The Polish POW and DP Camps Philatelic Study Group will hold a meeting at INTERPHIL '76 on Sunday, May 30th from 4 to 6 p.m. in Room 223, Civic Center, Philadelphia, Pa. Edward D. Wolski will present a talk on "Postal Services in Oflag IID Gross-Born Camp." Arnold L. Shay will give a lecture and a slide program on "Concentration Camps Postal History;" a business session will follow. A report on the coming Group's stamp exhibition will be made by Theo. Skotnicki; prospectus and entry forms will be available at the meeting. The Polish POW Camps exhibition will be hosted by the Polish Cadets Stamp Club of Buffalo, N.Y., and will be held 11-12 September 1976. More information can be had by writing to Theo. Skotnicki, 2341 Falls Link, Grand Island, N.Y. 14072. Enclose self addressed stamped envelope please.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 14th, 1976—

Installation of Officers — Talk Program — Beeba. Bernard A. 'Bud' Hennig will tell us what judges look for in judging a stamp exhibit and give pointers on how to improve show entries. Mr. Hennig, an International Philatelic Federation judge, has served on the juries of the recent Stockholm and Paris exhibitions.



Bernard "Bud" Hennig served as Chairman of the Judges at POLPEX 76.

Friday, May 28th, 1976 —

Program Meeting — The new situation of the Polish Philatelic Market in the Western Hemisphere will be the subject of a lecture by Roman J. Burkiewicz of Great Lakes Stamp Auctions.

Friday, June 11th, 1976 —

Program Meeting — A first-hand report on America's foremost Bicentennial international exhibition, INTERPHIL '76, will be given by Fred Blau.

GOLD MEDAL FOR GRUSZKA

Member John Z. Gruszka of Woodstock, Ont. Canada, took a gold medal at the recent Oxford Philatelic Exhibition held in Woodstock. He showed Polish Locals of 1918.

POLONUS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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The Polonus Philatelic Society is non-political. Views expressed by authors of articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the views of the Polonus Philatelic Society.

— Annual Dues are \$5.00 —

NEW OFFICERS FOR 1976-77

President Alfred Szebel
Vice President.. Chester Schafer
Secretary James Mazepa
Treasurer Al Rybarski
Director Walenty Poniecki
Director John Bartczak
Director Thomas Gobby
Director .. Dr. L. P. Kozakiewicz
Librarian John Bartczak
Historian Edward Link

POLONUS AT INTERPHIL 76

Pres. Alfred Szebel, Dr. Miet Kamienski, and Roman Burkiewicz plan to attend.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify us promptly when you have a change of address so as not to miss any issues of our Bulletin. Write to C. J. Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, IL 60656.

NEW MEMBERS

Jos. B. Mistarz, Jr.
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 23, 1976

Location: Polish Army Veterans Hall, 6005 Irving Pk. Rd., Chicago

The meeting was called to order by President Thomas J. Gobby at 8:30 p.m. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published with the Bulletin. Motion carried. Two applications for membership were read: from Mr. Joseph Zych of Merri-ville, Indiana, and from Mr. Jan Witold Nahorski of Enterprize, Alabama. Mr. Chester Schafer moved to accept them into membership, seconded by Mr. Joseph Kupiec, carried. At this time President Gobby introduced several of the guests from the Polish American Numismatic Association: Messrs Lou Ogonek, Ted Maczynski, Lou Koneza, President Art Marquart, along with Ms. Helen and Wanda Bietkal of Manitoba, Canada. President Gobby then proceeded to the next order of business, the election of officers for 1976-77. The Nominating Committee Chairman, James Mazepa, read the slate as proposed at the last meeting and published in the minutes. No nominations were made from the floor the previous meeting and the nominees had all accepted the call. For President, Mr. Alfred Szebel; for Vice President, Mr. Chester Schafer; for Secretary, Mr. James Mazepa; for Treasurer, Mr. Al Rybarski; For Directors: Dr. Leon P. Kozakiewicz (Honorary), Mr. Thomas Gobby (Ex Officio), Mr. John Bartezak, and Mr. Walenty Poniecki; for Librarian, Mr. John Bartezak; for Historian, Mr. Edward Link. Mr. Resner moved that the Secretary cast a vote for the entire slate as read, seconded by Mr. Kupiec and carried. Under New Business Mr. Schafer announced that Mr. Bernard "Bud" Hennig would speak at the May 14th meeting on "What Judges Look For in Judging an Exhibit." This May 14th meeting will also include the Installation of Officers and a Beeba. Best wishes were extended to member Mr. Ken Mysliwiec who met with unfortunate accident and had his foot in a cast, and to Mr. Gobby who broke his foot in a dubious adventure. Mr. Mazepa then presented a recent "find", an unlisted cachet postmark from Lublin. This mark was on a 1901 Russian postcard and read in Cyrillie "Lublin Wystawka—1901" (Lublin Fair—1901). This mark is unrecorded in the literature and if any members have further information, please send it to Mr. Mazepa. Mr. Schafer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Link, and carried. Our guest speaker, Mr. Lou Koneza, offered an outstanding presentation of the Coinage During the Reign of King Stanislaus August Poniatowski. The talk was followed by a Beeba which was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Mazepa, ACSW
Acting Secretary

POLPEX 76 SOUVENIRS

Because of the smashing success of our last exhibition, all the program catalogs were sold out. Very heavy this year was the sale of the souvenir cards reproducing the U.S. commemoratives of Kosciuszko and Pulaski. But a small amount of cacheted covers with the special Polpex 76 postmark still remain. While the supply lasts, the souvenir cards are available at \$1.25 (with show cancel \$2.00); a set of three official cacheted covers at \$1.25 per set. The traditional pair of souvenir sheets with descriptive folder 50c a set. Orders may be sent to John Bor, 1810 N. Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60647. Please include postage.

The special gilded medal commemorating the U.S. Bicentennial, designed by the famous Polish medalist, Edward Gorol, is still obtainable. It was minted in a limited quantity of 200 and is serially numbered. Cost of the medal is \$50.00 which includes of your name on it. Orders may be sent to Chester Mikucki, 4704 N. Overhill Ave., Norridge, IL 60656.

STAMP MARKET TIPS

By John G. Ross

As I reported in one of my previous columns, demand for many stamps of Poland has increased in Europe considerably. Dealers as well as collectors have found out that there just are no stamps of Poland to be had anywhere, as most of them were sold to the U.S.A. You still might be able to get some of the scarce and desirable issues at your dealer at a lower price than some dealers in Europe are willing to pay! In May 1934 Poland issued a set of two stamps by surcharging two regular issues to commemo-

orate the Philatelic Stamp Show in Katowice, Scott No. 280-281. They were on sale at the stamp show only, at double face value, and 40,800 sets were sold. Scott 1976 raised the price \$2.00 from the 1975 edition; they now catalog at \$26.00. Some dealers in Europe are willing to pay over full Scott, and are glad to get this scarce issue. Being a surcharged issue, be careful in buying as I have seen some very crude forgeries on used stamps only. I doubt whether mint copies were forged, but when in doubt, have them expertized.

Reprinted from STAMPS of 4/3/76

SORRY MR. NIEMESZ!

Our apologies to Mr. Edward Niemiesz for misspelling his name and incorrectly listing his POW Camp exhibit in the last issue of our Bulletin. Following is the corrected caption:



Edward Niemiesz with his POW exhibit which won a silver medal at POLPEX 76. Mr. Niemiesz was a prisoner at Camp Gross-Born, Oflag IID, and brought all the stamps exhibited with him.

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